

# WORLD BEAT

edited by Marta Garelik

## Jews, Christians Hold A "Freedom Seder For Soviet Jews"

SAN FRANCISCO (JTA) — An estimated 100 Jews and Christians gathered outside the Soviet Consulate here to hold a "Freedom Seder for Soviet Jews."

The noon, hour-long demonstration, which centered around a fully-set Passover table, was organized to draw parallels between the suffering of Jews in ancient Egypt and the present suffering by Jews in the Soviet Union.

Chairs around the table, which were placed across the street from the Soviet Consulate, were left empty. Enlarged photographs of Soviet Jewish Prisoners of Conscience were set in a row down the center of the table. Foreman said "Jews in the Soviet Union cannot celebrate Passover, so we are doing it for them."

## U.S. Protests Anti-Semitic Remarks At UN Forum

UNITED NATIONS (JTA) — The United States government has sharply protested to the United Nations the anti-Semitic remarks of an Arab Nazi collaborator who declared at a Human Rights conference last December in Geneva that Hitler had reason to murder the Jews and that Jews are instructed to drink the blood of non-Jews each year or face damnation.

The American protest was made in a confidential letter from the United States Mission to the UN to Kurt Herndl, Assistant Secretary General in charge of the Human Rights Center in Geneva.

The letter concluded: "The United States government requests a full explanation from the Center for Human Rights on how an individual of Mr. Al-Dawalibi's background could have been allowed to participate in a United Nations seminar designed to promote religious tolerance. We would like to know why the Center and the seminar's chairman did not immediately disassociate themselves from Al-Dawalibi's remark. We urge that in the future ac-

tivities of the Center such unfortunate episodes are not repeated."

In April the U.S. Mission to the UN received a reply from Herndl in Geneva. Herndl said that he agrees that every effort should be made to avoid such incidents in the future, noting that episodes like that give the UN bad publicity. He did not respond, however, directly, to the demands made by the U.S. government in its letter.

## Ethiopian Jews Study At TAU

TEL AVIV (JTA) — Ten Ethiopian Jews are now studying at Tel Aviv University after having attended special preparatory courses, and another 11 are now attending the pre-university "mehina" course to bring them up to the required standards.

According to a counselor in the Dean of Student's Office, they are highly motivated. "They have their hearts set on studying in Israel and show a great desire to succeed."

"They learn Hebrew more quickly than most other immigrants and they study hard. And they are exceptionally motivated in what they do, despite the tragic background many come from, and the problem of integrating into a very different society."

## Israeli Skin Banks Protested

Public opinion was outraged by reports that Israel's major hospitals did not have sufficient human skin urgently needed to treat 14 soldiers who suffered severe burns in a suicide truck-bomb attack on an Israel Defense Force convoy in south Lebanon on March 10. Twelve soldiers were killed in the attack.

The skin shortage was attributed to a law passed by the Knesset a year ago under intense pressure from the Orthodox political parties forbidding the storage of human skin in skin banks for future emergencies. Israeli doctors reportedly appealed to colleagues in Holland to fly in skin for emergency transplants.

Under the circumstances, the two Chief Rabbis ruled

that skin banks were permissible when lives are at stake. But ultra-Orthodox circles denounced their ruling, claiming it would encourage doctors to perform autopsies without the consent of the deceased's next of kin.

## Israel To Help Caribbean Nations In Agricultural Development

WASHINGTON (JTA) — Israel will help in agricultural development in three Caribbean countries — the Dominican Republic, Jamaica and Antigua — under a project sponsored by the U.S. Agency for International Development (AID). The \$550,000 grant for the "first-of-kind agreement" will finance technical services to be implemented by Israel's Division of International Cooperation and Center for International Cooperation for Agricultural Development.

In the Dominican Republic, Israel will provide a plant pathologist, a field crop expert and laboratory specialists to work on an AID project there. In Jamaica, six Israeli specialists will help improve the management, operation and maintenance of two irrigation systems on the southern coast.

In Antigua, Israel will furnish a long-term resident technician and other assistance to help with the "Bethesda Project," an irrigation-based settlement intended to achieve intensive vegetable production.

## Rockefeller U. and Weizmann Institute Form New Foundation

NEW YORK (JTA) — The collaboration between two of the world's foremost research institutions, the Rockefeller University and the Weizmann Institute of Science, will be made possible through a contribution by the Rapid-American Corporation (R-AC).

A contribution of \$5 million is expected to generate \$500,000 per year from investment.

Many of its initial efforts are likely to be in biomedical research areas like cancer biology, the neurosciences, molecular genetics, immunology, plant genetics and parasitic diseases, as well as

other fundamental science. The subjects and findings of the research supported through the new foundation will form the basis of international symposia involving leading scientists from institutions throughout the world.

## Some Israelis Living Abroad Ask To Have Citizenship Waived

JERUSALEM (JTA) — About 200 Israelis living abroad, most of them in the U.S., have asked the Interior Ministry to waive their Israeli citizenship, the Ministry announced today. They made the request because of the recent steep rise in the travel tax imposed on Israelis going abroad. The purpose is to discourage foreign travel and conserve currency.

Israelis living overseas said the new tax, which applies only to citizens, would make it difficult for them to make their periodic trips home. Each time they wanted to leave they would have to pay the travel tax which amounts to \$150 plus 15 percent of the air fare.

## Tib-Bits

ATHENS (JTA) — Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou of Greece and Prime Minister Shimon Peres of Israel are each indebted to the other's countrymen.

It was Palestinian Jews who rescued Papandreou's father, George Papandreou, from the Nazis in German-occupied Greece more than 40 years ago. And it was the Greek underground, of which the elder Papandreou was a member, which rescued Peres' father, Itzhak Persky, from the Gestapo in Greece at about the same time.

BONN (JTA) — Simon Wiesenthal was presented with the Grosses Verdienstkreuz (Grand Service Cross), one of West Germany's highest awards, for his contributions

to the reconciliation between Jews and Germans. "You have devoted your life to this task despite the deep suffering you experienced under the national Socialist reign of terror," Chancellor Helmut Kohl wrote in a letter of congratulations to Wiesenthal.

BONN (JTA) — Marc Scheps, Director of the Tel Aviv Museum, has become the first Israeli to receive the Goethe Medal, the only official decoration of the West German Federal Republic in the field of cultural exchange.

JERUSALEM (JTA) — The transfer of the entire Talmud to cassettes has just been completed here. There are 1,000 cassettes containing 1,500 hours of Talmud study.

Anyone who listens to the tapes for one hour a day will be able to complete the entire Babylonian Talmud within four years. The universal "Daf Hayomi" — one page a day — program takes seven years.

TORONTO (JTA) — Ernst Zundel, a resident alien in Canada since 1958, was sentenced to 15 months imprisonment and three years probation by a federal judge for spreading the lie that the Holocaust did not occur.

BONN (JTA) — The Green Party faction in the City Council of Bonn, in a surprise reversal, has agreed to join a local association formed to resist anti-Semitism and anti-Zionism and to erect a memorial here to Bonn Jews who perished in the Holocaust.

BONN (JTA) — The town of Neuwied in the Rhine valley will hire unemployed workers to restore the old Jewish cemetery there, it was just announced. They will be supervised by experts and Jewish representatives, including rab-

(Continued on Page 17)



## May I Have Your Attention?!?

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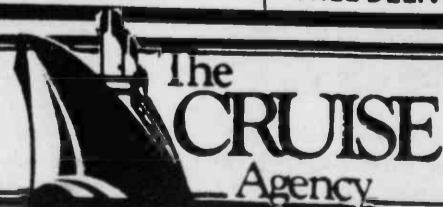
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